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I, KAY WARD, ACTING MANAGER EXAMINATION SUPPORT AND SALES hereby certify that annexed is a true copy of the Provisional specification in connection with Application No. PQ 5397 for a patent by WORLDLINGO. COM PTY LTD filed on 02 February 2000.

WITNESS my hand this
Eleventh day of October 2000

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "K Ward".

KAY WARD
ACTING MANAGER EXAMINATION
SUPPORT AND SALES



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PRIORITY DOCUMENT**

AUSTRALIA

Patents Act 1990

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

Invention Title: ""TRANSLATION ORDERING SYSTEM""

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TRANSLATION ORDERING SYSTEM

This invention relates to a method and system for ordering a translation via a communications network. In particular, it relates to a “one-click” ordering system for obtaining an “instant” translation of a web page, electronic mail or other electronic communication.

BACKGROUND TO THE INVENTION

The Internet is an international communications network that links computers all over the world. Individuals and businesses can access the Internet for exchange of information and conduct of business. New ways of utilizing the Internet are being launched virtually every day but most rely on exchange of information via established protocols and services such as electronic mail and the World Wide Web.

The World Wide Web (WWW or the Web) facilitates exchange of graphical and textual information by transmitting web pages from a server computer to a client computer. Each page, or part of a page, is typically stored in a file. Each file or collection of files is considered as a resource which can be located by a unique identifier known as a Universal Resource Locator (URL). When the URL is known the corresponding resource can be requested, located and displayed on the client computer using a protocol such as HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP).

The URL is also important for creating links between web pages. Web pages are generally written using HyperText Markup Language (HTML). HTML provides a standard set of commands and functions that define how a web page will display. A URL can be embedded in a web page as an active link to be followed by, for example, clicking on the link. By “clicking” is meant positioning a mouse pointer over the link and pressing one of the mouse buttons. Conventionally the left mouse button is pressed to

follow a link and the right mouse button (when available) is used to choose from a menu of options.

The Web and the Internet have become almost ubiquitous in world-wide availability. As a result, new modes of business and information
5 exchange have developed. It is now possible to purchase a wide range of products via the Web. It is also possible to communicate almost instantly to almost anywhere in the world using the Internet.

The only substantial barrier to global trade is language difference. The problem of language has been addressed by web sites dedicated to
10 providing electronic and/or human translations of electronic communications. A communication processing system that provides transparent translation of electronic communications is described in co-pending Australian provisional patent application number PQ1419, filed by the present applicant.

15 Apart from the system described in the co-pending application, there are numerous web sites dedicated to providing electronic translation. Universally, these web sites require a visit to the site and the making of an electronic request that defines the communication to be translated. Commercial sites often require the provision of billing information to
20 authorize payment for the translation by the requestor. These translation services are not user friendly since a large number of keystrokes are required by a user before the desired translation can be obtained. Furthermore, the process is time consuming whereas recent trends in web applications demand rapid response. It would be preferable to avoid the
25 need to leave the site you are on and go to the translation site. This acts as a major disincentive to a purchaser who seeks a product from a foreign language web page. Rather than complete all the steps necessary to obtain a translation of the web page, the potential purchaser will seek another web trader.

30 In order to overcome the language barrier a request for translation must be made as simple and expeditious as possible.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

In one form, although it need not be the only or indeed the broadest form, the invention resides in a method of ordering a translation including
5 the steps of:
displaying to a customer a one-click translation component;
said customer clicking said one-click translation component to request
translation of a selected communication;
said one-click translation component requesting a translation of said
10 selected communication by transmitting said selected communication, or an
indicator of said selected communication, to a translation manager;
said translation manager obtaining a translation of said communication; and
said translation manager transmitting said translation of said communication
to said customer.

15 The method may further include the step of the customer providing
translation parameters such as the target language.

In a further form, the invention resides in a single-click translation
ordering system comprising:
a one-click translation component displayed in association with a
20 communication;
a translation manager in communication with said one-click translation
component via a communication network, said translation manager
obtaining a translation of a selected communication in response to a single
action by a customer to said one-click translation component, and
25 forwarding said translation of said selected communication to the customer.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG 1 shows a schematic of a translation ordering system;

FIG 2 shows an example of a one-click explorer bar embodiment of a
translation ordering component;

- FIG 3 shows an example of a tool bar embodiment of a translation ordering component;
- FIG 4 shows an example of a context menu embodiment of a translation ordering component;
- 5 FIG 5 shows a further example of a context menu embodiment of a translation ordering component;
- FIG 6 shows other embodiments of translation ordering components;
- FIG 7 shows an example of translation ordering component embodied for email translation; and
- 10 FIG 8 is a block diagram of one embodiment of a translation manager.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- Referring to FIG 1, there is shown a schematic of a translation ordering system. A customer 1 requests a web page 2 from a web server 3.
- 15 The web server 3 sends the requested page 2 to the customer's Internet browser. The web page 2 is displayed by the browser and the customer 1 determines if a translation is required. If a translation is required it is requested with a single action, as described below. A number of different embodiments are described below for a one click component for performing
- 20 the single action. Whatever the particular embodiment, the result is always the same.

- Once the translation is requested by a single action, the web page, a selected part of the web page, or the URL of the web page is transferred 5 to a translation manager 4. It is not normally required to translate graphics so
- 25 when transferring the data to be translated the graphics will not usually be transferred. In this way bandwidth demands are not as great and the translation will be returned more quickly.

Rather than transferring the web page, the URL may be provided instead. In this case, the translation manager 4 will retrieve the original web page 6 from the web server 3.

The translation manager 4 processes the request by translating the
 5 text (and possibly sound, video, graphics etc.) and optionally adding further information. The translated web page 7 is transferred to the customer's browser and displayed in the requested language. The translation manager may also replace all links in the translated web page 7 with links that point to the translation manager 4. This enables the customer to surf an entire web
 10 site, or indeed many websites because often the links on a page are to other websites, without the need to separately request translation of each page. Once translation of one page is requested, linked pages may be automatically translated (either when the link is clicked or in advance) in anticipation of the customer's needs.

15 The single action to request a translation can be embodied in a number of ways. One example is shown in FIG 2. FIG 2 shows a screen shot of a web page 10 in English. At the bottom of the screen is an explorer bar 11 that implements a one-click translation component. The one-click component indicates that the page is to be translated from the current
 20 language, in this case English, to another language, which in this example is German. The user needs only direct a mouse pointer to the "GO" button and click once or select another language from the list, for the translation to be delivered by the translation manager.

The explorer bar may always be present in the browser window but
 25 may also be invisible until the user activates the translator plug-in button 12 on the tool bar. The button 12 may also be used to activate the one-click translation facility in any of the ways described later.

It will be noted that the 'from language' and 'to language' are contained in pull-down lists. This allows the user to select different
 30 translation options. Various other options can be selected with the "Edit Options" link 13. These options might include an area of speciality e.g.

medical for medical web pages, a specific dictionary, glossary, a specific translator (machine or human) to be used, the level of confidentiality required, the level of quality of the translation required, whether to edit or proof read, a time frame when the translation is required in the case of

5 human translation, etc.

The amount of user interaction that is required will diminish through use. Once the options are set up there is only a requirement to click the one-click component to initiate the translation. It is anticipated that 'smart' icons will be employed that 'learn' user preferences through use thus further

10 diminishing any need for user interaction other than through the one-click component.

Payment for the translation may be effected in one of many ways including:(a) The owner of the web page may pay for all translations; (b) the user may pay for the translation; or

15 (c) it may be free and supported by advertising & sponsorship.

If (b) applies, it will be necessary for the user to set up account details before the translation can be made. In the example shown in FIG2, (b) applies and the user will set up account details using the "Setup Account" link. To set up an account the client would be required to

20 provided a variety of information which could include, but is not limited to:

- Name;
- Address;
- Phone Number;
- Fax number;
- 25 • Email Address;
- Preferred Password;
- Security information that can be used to identify the user in case they forget their password;
- Preferred payment method e.g. credit card, purchase order, bank
- 30 transfer, etc;
- Demographic information;

- Information about the types of things that get translated e.g. medical industry, email, research reports etc;
- Preferences regarding the nature of the translation e.g. formal, informal, business, etc;
- 5 • Preferred quality level;
- The level of editing and/or proof reading required;
- Language pairs for which translation is required and the email address where each translation should be sent;
- Preferred turnaround times;
- 10 • Confidentiality Level;
- Do not translate (DNT) lists
- Customer specific dictionaries (CSD)

If (a) or (c) applies there is no action required by the customer other than to click once on the one-click translation component.

- 15 The explorer bar 11 is implemented as an Internet browser plug-in and therefore integrates with the users browser, such as Microsoft's Internet Explorer® or Netscape's Navigator®. Compared to prior art solutions, the explorer bar 11 has the unique ability to communicate with the web browser to gain access to the required details of the current web page. It can also
- 20 allow saving options and preferences on the customer's local computer as well as supporting the translation of web pages or text selections by just one mouse click.

- 25 Prior art solutions require multiple mouse clicks to achieve the same result. Most often the customer is merely transferred to a common web page that is used for copy and paste translations at the translators web site. The language then has to be selected and the translation process started manually through the customer's interaction. The prior art approach requires an unacceptable number of actions by the user as well as time delays while waiting for web pages to load.

- 30 The translation manager 4 may store translation programs for effecting automatic translation of the identified web page. Alternatively, the

translation manager may simply manage the process by transmitting the web page to another translation site. In some cases, a suitable translation engine will not be available and it will be necessary for the document to be translated by a human. This requirement will be notified to the customer by the translation manager and the translation process initiated or delayed until approved by the customer. The translation manager appends identifying data to the transmission in order to correctly return and display the translated material. The identifying data may include a job number that uniquely addresses a specific translation job.

10 The explorer bar 11 is only one embodiment of the one-click translation component. The content of the explorer bar 11 may be embodied as menu items in the customers' browser. For example, the tools menu of Microsoft's Internet Explorer® may include a menu item as shown in FIG 3 which allows selection of "Translate this page", or if text has been selected, 15 "Translate selected text". The one-click translation component may also be a context menu as shown in FIG 4, activated by clicking the right mouse button to translate the page. If text has been selected the context menu will give the option to "Translate selection", as shown in FIG 5. Such components will be known to persons skilled in the art of programming for 20 web pages.

Other embodiments, in the form of pull down lists, buttons and bars are shown in FIG 6. The webmaster (person responsible for construction and management of the web page) can include pre-built HTML and JavaScript code into their web pages to instantaneously enable a one-click 25 translation component.

The banners and buttons of FIG 6 are automated to provide a one-click component for requesting translation, ie. all the customer has to do to translate the current web page is select the target language. Because the encoding of the web page and the source language is already known and 30 preset when the webmaster includes the one-click translation component, it is sufficient at this stage just to choose the target language. The translated

page will still contain the one-click translation component, so another selection of a target language will invoke the process again.

It will be appreciated by persons skilled in the use and programming of web pages and/or software that the described functions can be provided by plug-in applications or stand alone programs that interact either actively or passively with the viewed web pages (or data containers in software applications e.g. fields, memo fields, Blobs, documents, workbooks, windows, dialog boxes, record, etc.) and communicate with the translation manager via the Internet to request translation in response to a keystroke or mouse action by the customer.

It will also be appreciated that the one-click translation component is not restricted to operating in a web environment. For example it may also be embodied as an add-in for translation of electronic mail, as shown in FIG 7. The tool 14 appears on the tool bar of the email client e.g. Microsoft Outlook or Eudora. With a single action, such as the click of a mouse button, a customer may send a message to the translation manager 4 for translation and optionally forwarding to the intended recipient or returning to the requestor. In this embodiment, the customer may save default account information as previously discussed.

The invention can be applied to virtually any software. In one embodiment, the inventor envisages that an icon (button) could be provided in one corner of the computer screen and operate directly within the operating system shell. When the item is clicked the active control or active window is sent to the translation manager for translation.

In another example an icon could be added to the tool bar of applications that commonly deal with documents like WINZIP. So when unzipping a file it is translated automatically with one click.

In an extension of the one-click translation ordering system, the translation manager 4 maintains a database of statistical information about the requested translations. The statistical information is accessible by webmasters (and/or other approved parties) of web pages that have been

translated in a similar way to how page visit information is currently available using cgi-bin. This statistical information provides hard data to the web site owner about which parts of their website should be translated and into which languages.

5 For example, if a travel website has a section on Port Douglas holidays that receives requests for translations into Japanese over a hundred times a day, it would be a clear indication to the website owner to have that part of their website professionally translated into Japanese. It may also affect the sites product mix. Based on this statistical data the website owner
10 might include more Port Douglas destinations with Japanese speaking staff, menus, etc. than they had before.

The key benefit of this aspect of the invention is that it helps the website owner to make better business decisions based upon the actual language preferences of visitors to their website.

15 Another use for this statistical data is as a marketing tool. The statistical data can be used by a website localization business to convince a potential client to have their website localized into say Japanese. The data may also highlight other languages the website should be localized into thus helping to gain more business.

20 The one-click translation ordering system can form a key component of revenue sharing programs such as those commonly known on the internet as affiliate or associate programs. Under these programs, the site (and this can be extended to software packages on computers that are connected to the internet at least occasionally) offering the service or product for sale
25 pays an amount of money to other sites who advertise or promote their service or product. This amount of money is calculated on a per impression basis (an amount for each time an advertisement such as a button, banner, or text description is displayed), a per click basis (an amount for each time someone clicks on the advertisement to visit the site offering the product or
30 service), a per lead basis (an amount for each time a visitor clicks on an advertisement and fills out say an inquiry form), or a per sale basis (an

amount for each time the visitor clicks on an advertisement and actually buys something from the site offering the product or service – this could be a fixed amount or a variable amount such as a percentage). These programs can be multi-tier i.e. each participant may get a share of the revenue derived
5 from people they refer to join the affiliate program. They can be set up to only pay on sales generated on that particular visit, or for a fixed period after that visit, say 90 days, or for life.

A person skilled in the art would be aware of the myriad of ways these revenue sharing schemes can be set up. There are many variations in
10 terms of how the revenue shared is calculated; what advertisements are available; what medium you can advertise on e.g. web pages, emails, newsletters, brochures, newsgroups, software, signature files, etc.; and many other attributes of the program.

The one-click translation ordering system when integrated with such
15 a revenue sharing program has several advantages over competing offers in terms of the value it adds to the website in addition to the revenue sharing opportunities. The added value includes the statistical data that helps the web site owner determine which parts of the website should be localized into which languages based on actual demand from users.. Research has
20 found that a visitor is three times more likely to buy something from a site in their native language versus a non-native language, so the value added includes the increased sales that are likely to be generated by the site.

The one-click translation ordering system returns additional value to the owners of web pages that elect to embed a one-click translation
25 component on their web page. Members of the affiliate program receive a commission statement indicating the number of translations made as well as recommendations on which pages should be permanently translated and into which languages. The inventor envisages that this facility can greatly enhance the effectiveness of web based marketing by the affiliate member.

The affiliate member may also receive a commission on translations paid for by their customers. This information is tracked by the translation manager 4.

5 One possible embodiment of the functional components of the translation manager 4 is shown in FIG 8. As mentioned above, the translation manager 4 may include translation engines 20 for performing the required translations. A database 21 of available translation servers may also be maintained and the translation manager 4 will direct requested translations to the appropriate server. It is also necessary for the translation
10 manager 4 to maintain a customer database 22 for accounting purposes. Statistics on translations performed are maintained in another database 23 for internal management and affiliate program purposes. The translation manager 4 also includes an auto-responder 24 for sending messages to the customer and to webmasters of affiliate web page owners.

15 Throughout this specification the aim has been to describe the preferred embodiments of the invention without limiting the invention to any one embodiment or specific collection of features.

DATED this SECOND day of FEBRUARY 2000

WORLDLINGO.COM PTY LTD

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By their Patent Attorneys

FISHER ADAMS KELLY

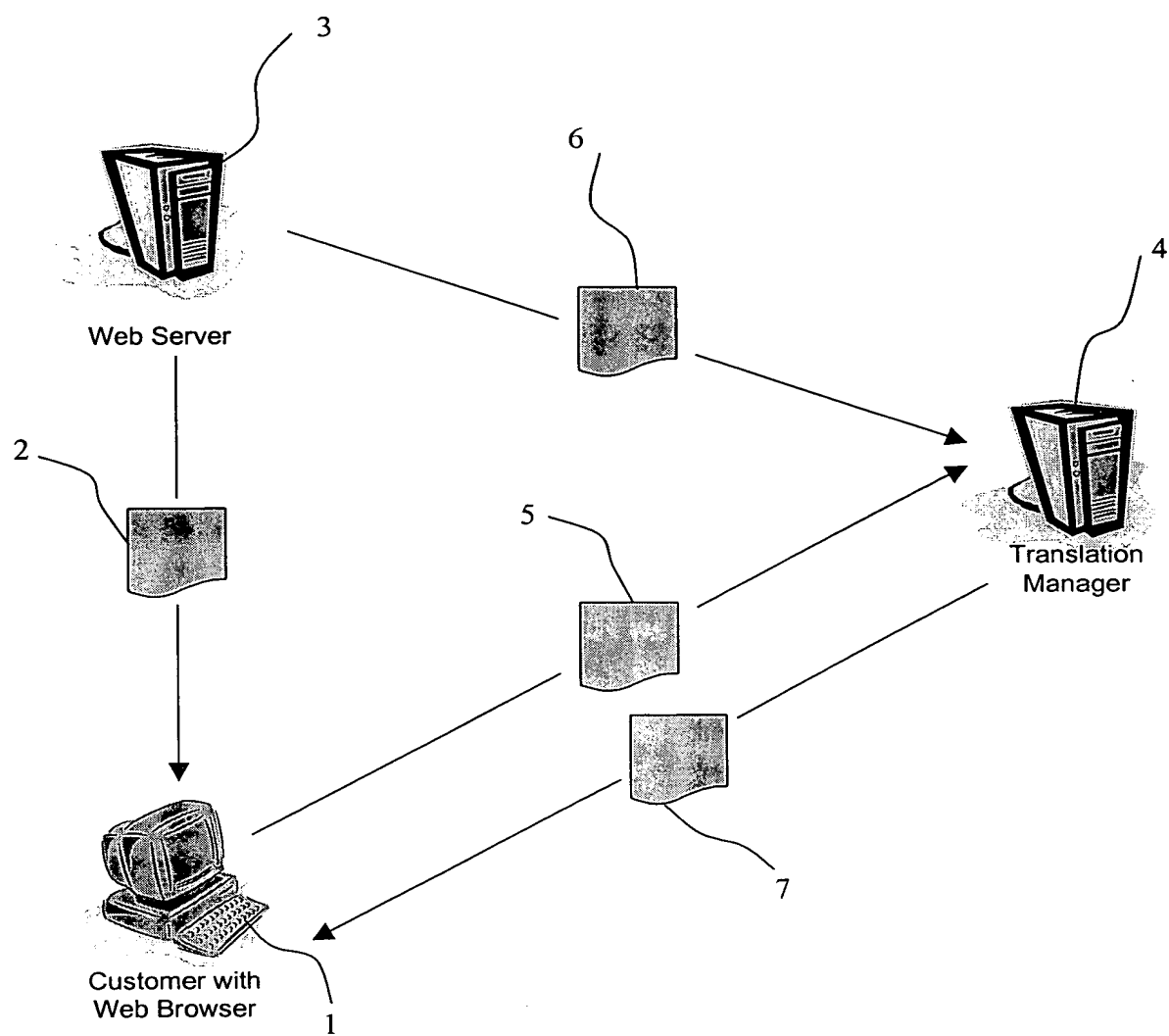


FIG 1

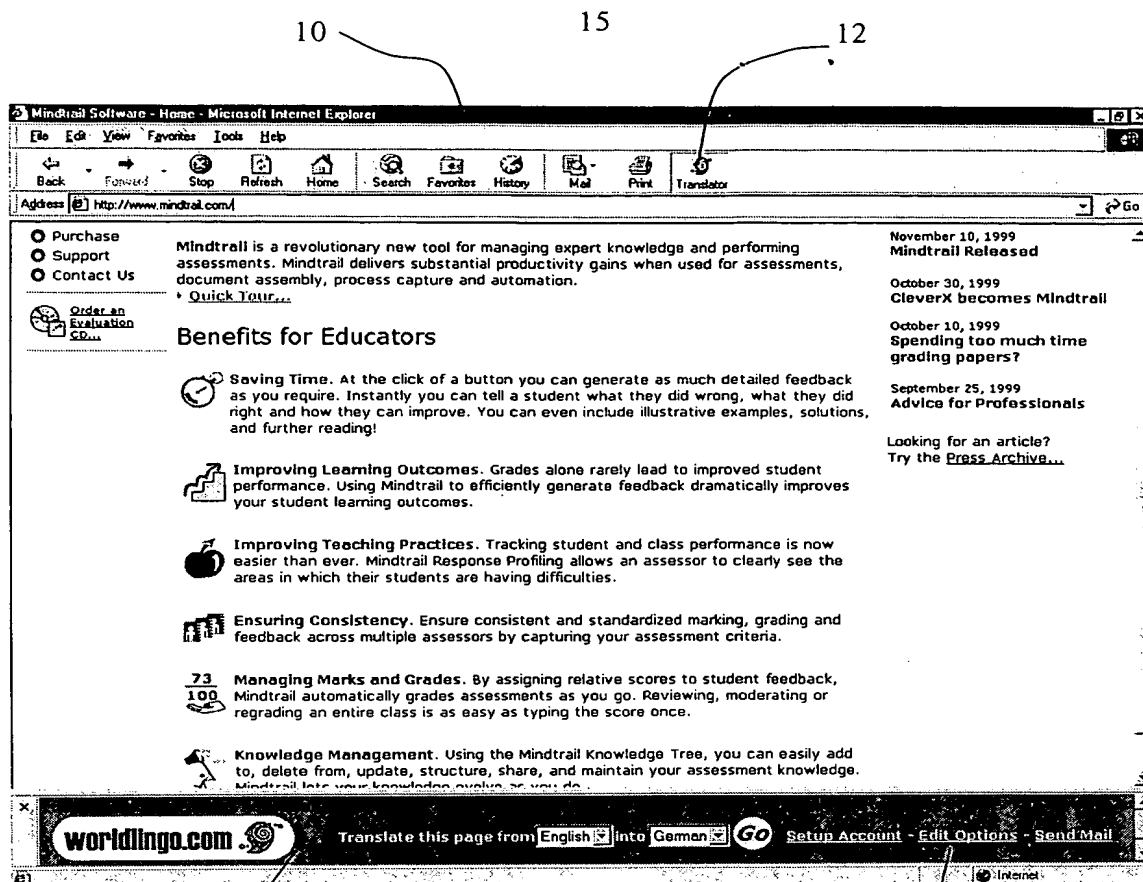


FIG 2

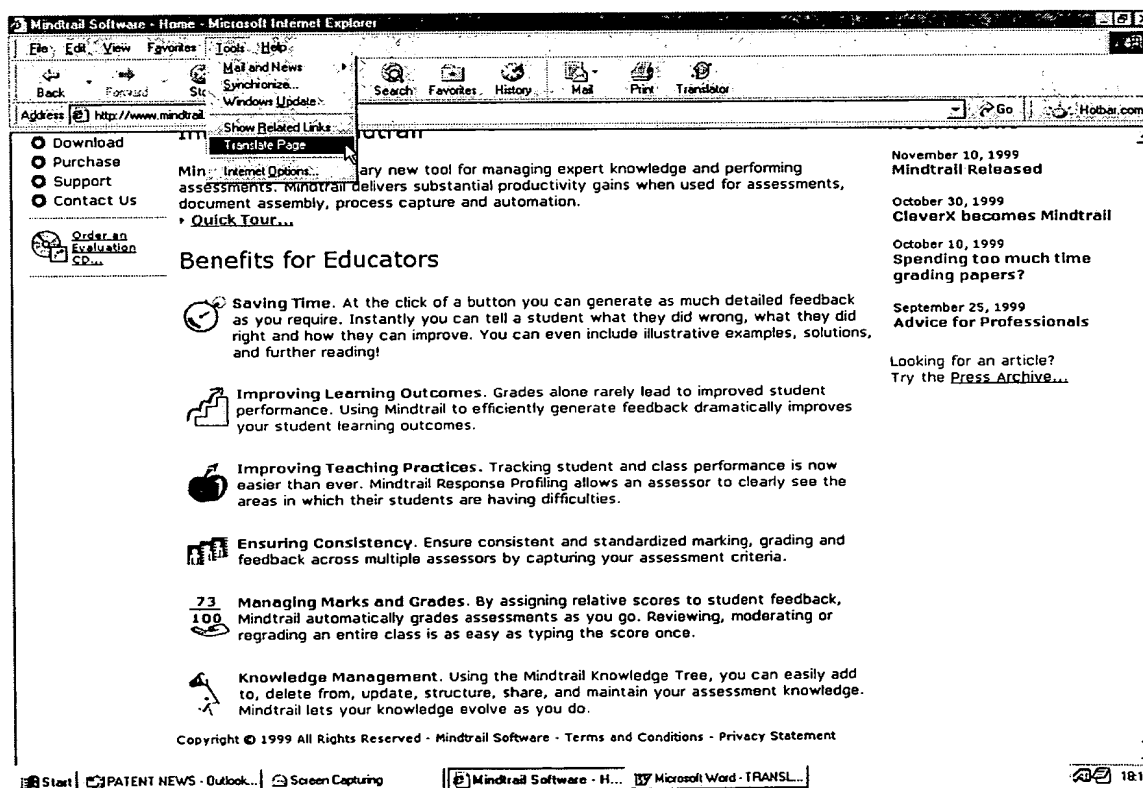


FIG 3

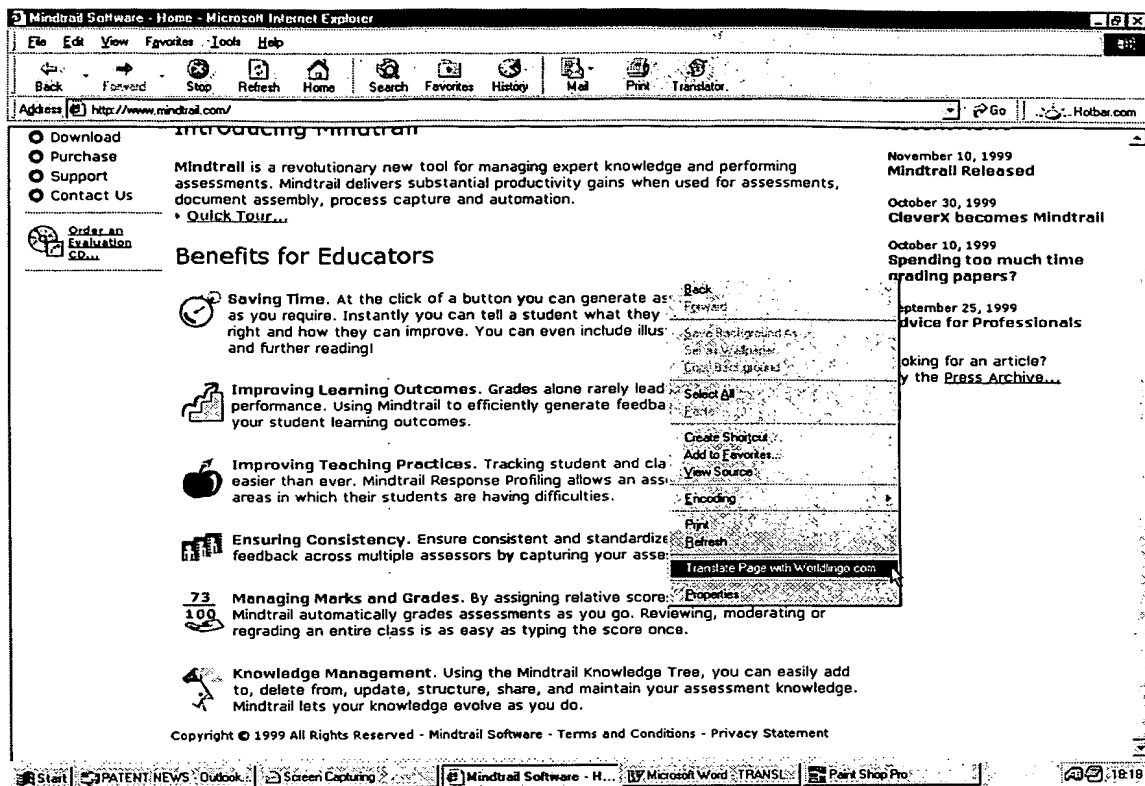


FIG 4

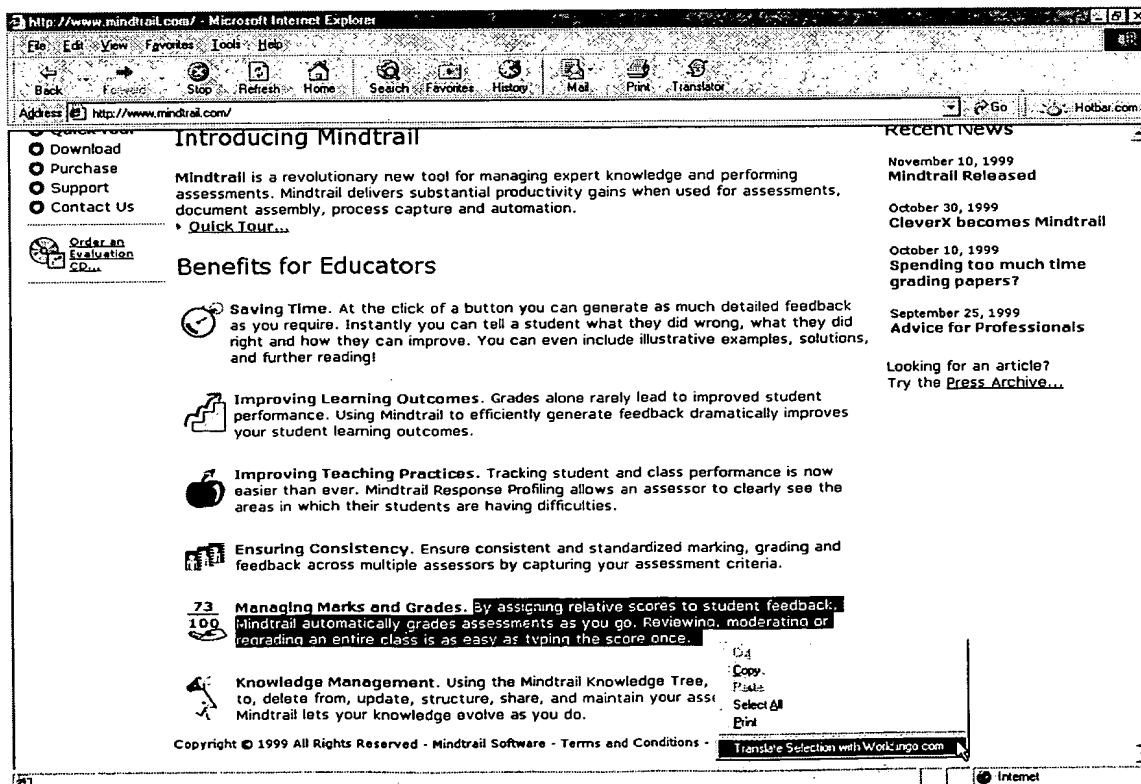


FIG 5



FIG 6

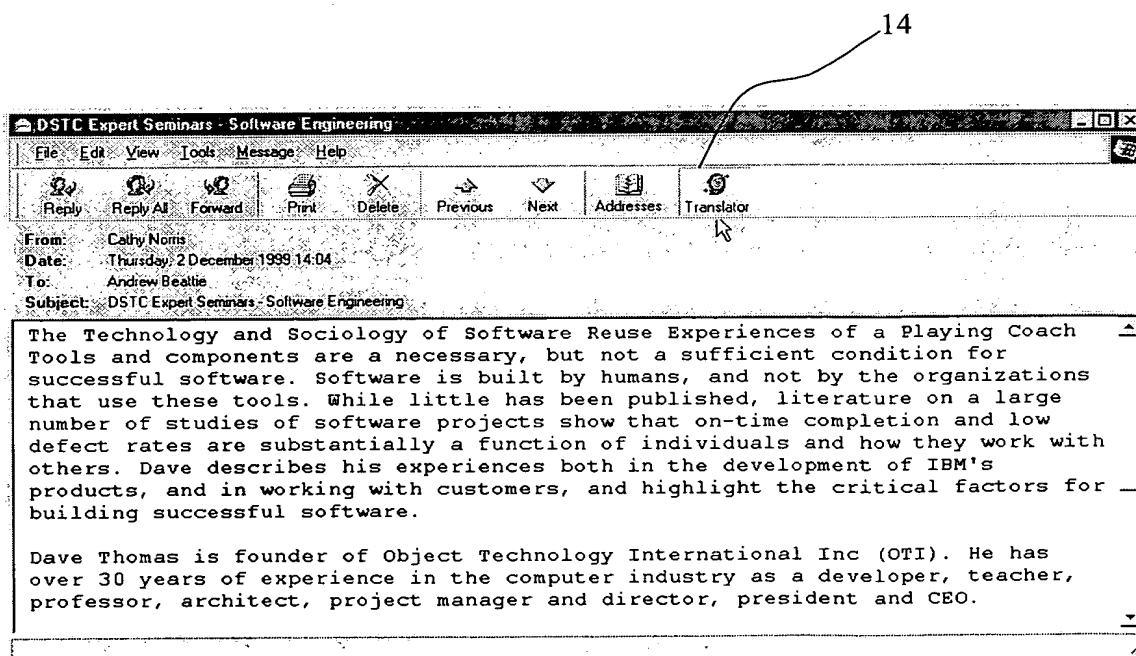


FIG 7

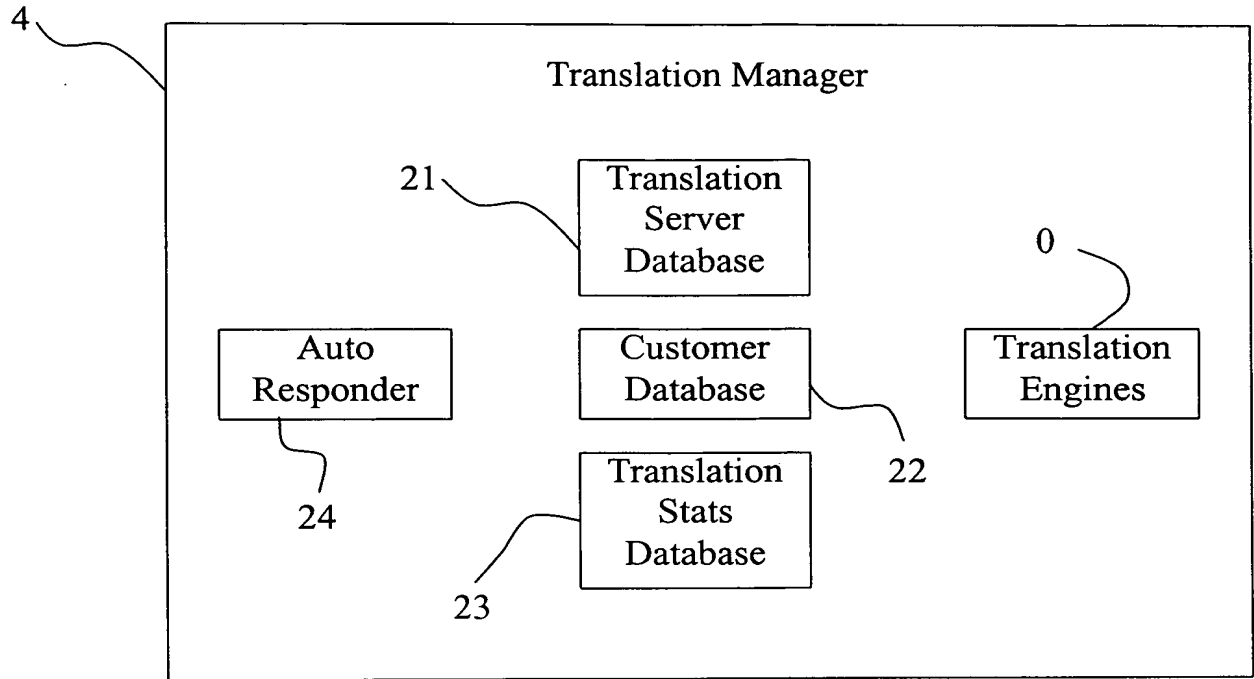


FIG 8